

**December 15, 2019, 9:00 AM**

**Bold Print** - Congregational Response | † - Please stand as you are able

**FWS** – Faith We Sing Hymnal | **UMH** – United Methodist Hymnal

## Gathering

**Prelude**

*Hyfrydol*

arr. Mark Hayes

**Welcome**

† **Opening Hymn**

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

**UMH 196**

† **Greeting**

† **Opening Hymn**

*Canticle of the Turning*

**Insert**

† **Lighting the Advent Candle of Joy**

O send out your light and your truth;  
let them lead me;  
let them bring me to your holy hill  
and to your dwelling.  
Then I will go to the altar of God,  
to God my exceeding joy;  
and I will praise you with the harp,  
O God, my God. (Psalm 43:3-4)

It's getting closer.

**We feel it!**

The days are shorter, but the lights burn brighter.

**We're listening. We're eager to hear good news.**

We've gathered together in the House of Joy.

**We're here to praise God with our voices.**

We're here to praise God with beautiful music.

**We're here to praise God with all we have.**

*The third candle is lit.*

Today we light the candle of Joy.

**We worship God with exceeding joy!**

## The Word

**Hymn:**

*How Great Our Joy*

**Insert**

**Time With Young Christians**

**Anthem**

*Lullaby*

Benjamin D'Angelo

Morningstar Choir

Benjamin D'Angelo, guest conductor

**Invitation to Offering**

**Offertory**

*Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*

Benjamin D'Angelo

Dayspring Choir

† **Advent Doxology:**

Tune: UMH 219

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise God all creatures here below,  
Praise God above ye heav'nly hosts,  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.*

*This, this is Christ the King  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing.  
Haste, haste to bring him laud,  
the babe the Son of Mary.*

† **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**Prayers of the People**

God of mystery and miracles,  
Your Word brings light into the dark places of our lives;  
Your presence gives us strength to endure  
when we are pushed beyond our own strength.  
You find us in our lostness and,  
with love beyond our imagining,  
you lead us home.

All this you offer in and through Jesus Christ.

Yet, we resist you.  
We resist loosening our tight grip on our lives.  
We hesitate to trust you  
for you may lead us where we do not want to go.  
You know the places in our hearts  
and in our minds  
where we are well-defended  
against your intrusions.

In this season of longing,  
grant us grace to bring all that we are to you, O Christ  
– all the broken places  
– all the lost wanderings  
– all the weariness from trying to live lives that are pleasing to you.

Hold them all in the fullness of your love.  
Then, be born in us,  
that we may find our home,  
our life,  
our joy  
in You, Lord of light and love.

**Amen.**

**Scripture Reading:**

EZRA 1:1-3, 3:1-4, 10-13

**Sermon**

What Traditions Have You Settled On?

# Our Response

## Celebration of Holy Communion

*All are welcome at God's table. Please follow the direction of the ushers. A gluten-free option is available.*

## The Lord's Prayer

**FWS Back Cover**

## Communion Music

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

**UMH 230**

## Prayer of Response

# Going Out Into the World

## ✠ Closing Hymn

*Canticle of the Turning*

**Insert**

## ✠ Benediction

## Postlude

*Air from Suite V in E Major*

G.F. Handel

**Rev. Janet Craswell, Rev. Barbara Green, and  
Rev. Doug Robinson-Johnson, clergy leadership**

**Judy Edstrom, liturgist;**

**Paul Krogh, bass guitar;**

**Nevin Bender, piano;**

**Dayspring Choir**

**Melissa Chávez, worship leader**



## Messiah in the Community: National UMC Choirs and DC Strings

Today at 5 pm

Lincoln Park UMC  
1301 North Caroline Ave NE,  
Washington, DC 20002

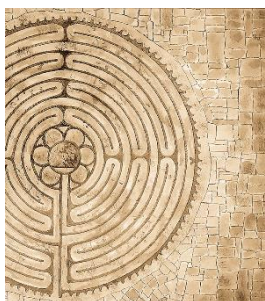


## Longest Night Service

December 21 at 7 pm

Wesley Sanctuary  
5312 Connecticut  
Ave. NW

For those struggling with  
grief during the holiday  
season.



## Contemplative Evening Service

Today and December 22 at 7 pm

*Metropolitan Memorial Sanctuary*

Take a deep breath amidst this often-chaotic  
season in this worship service based on the  
Taizé community.



## Eve of the Eve Service

December 23 at 6:30 pm

*Metropolitan Memorial Sanctuary*

With the Christmas story, carols, and  
communion.



# National United Methodist Church

*A Reconciling Congregation*

## Metropolitan Memorial Campus

3401 Nebraska Avenue, NW | Washington, DC 20016

December 15, 2019, at 9:00 AM

Third Sunday of Advent



## Our Vision:

**Extending radical hospitality,  
transforming lives, and pursuing justice.**

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*Praising Learning Serving Caring Sharing*

### Reconciling Statement

*National United Methodist Church affirms that all individuals are of sacred worth without regard to race, ethnicity, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, religion, education, marital circumstances, economic status, physical and mental condition, or criminal history. We declare ourselves in support of the reconciling movement and welcome the full participation in the church of gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgendered persons and their families, as a reflection of God's unconditional love.*

*At the same time, we recognize differences of opinion on issues of sexuality and seek to journey together in faith toward greater understanding and mutual respect.*

[www.nationalchurch.org](http://www.nationalchurch.org) | (202) 363-4900

**ALL are welcome here. All means ALL.**